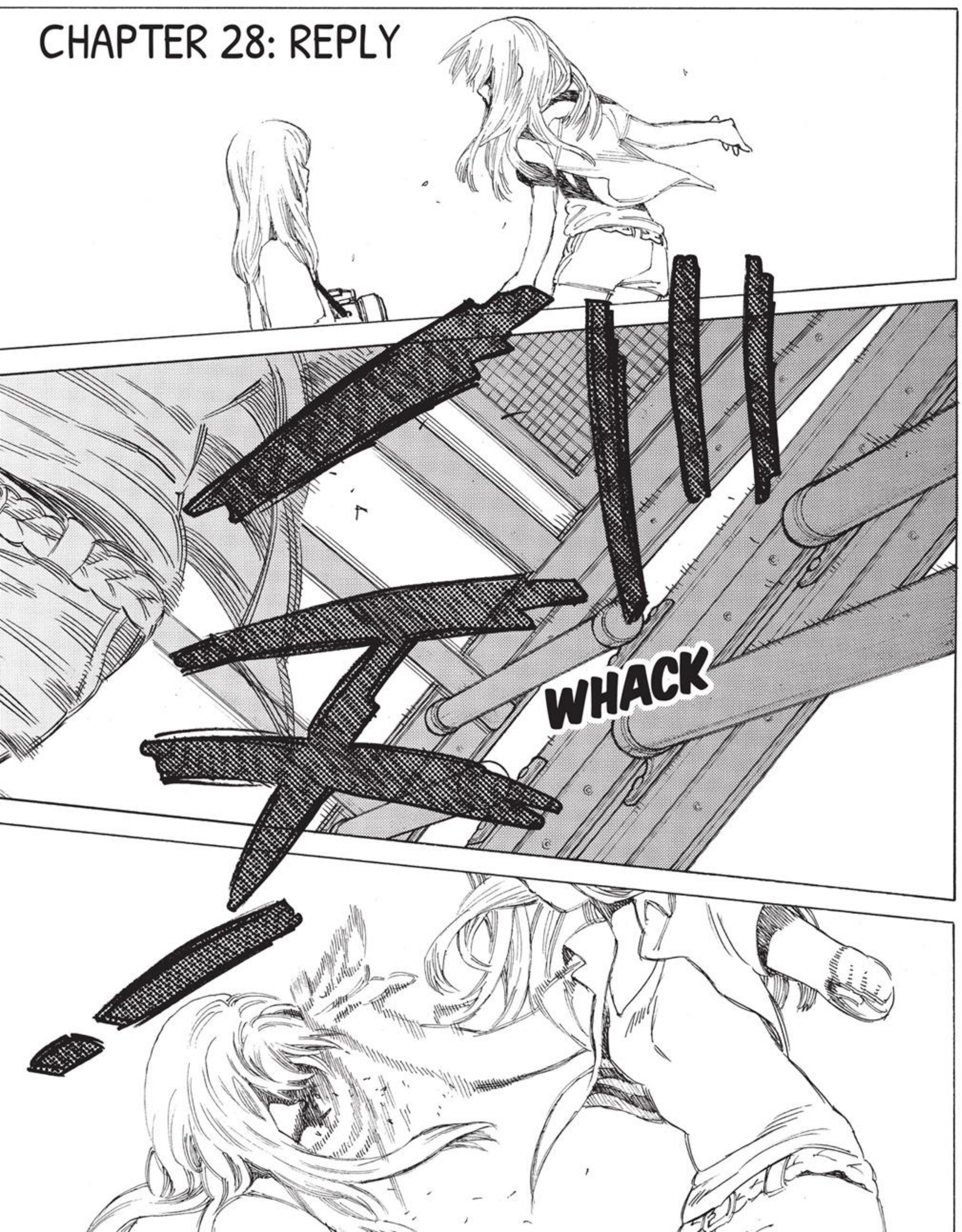
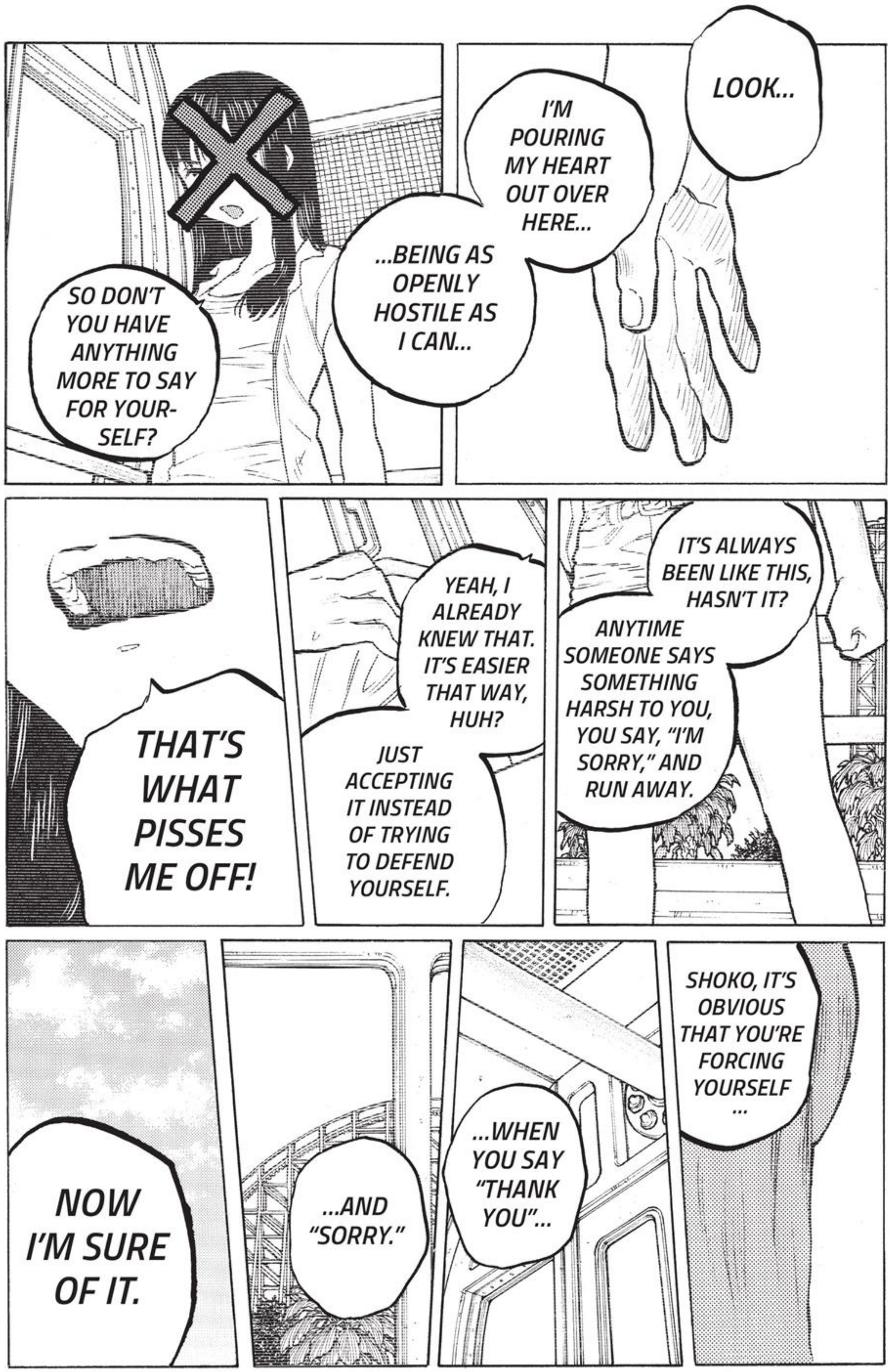
I HATE MYSELF.

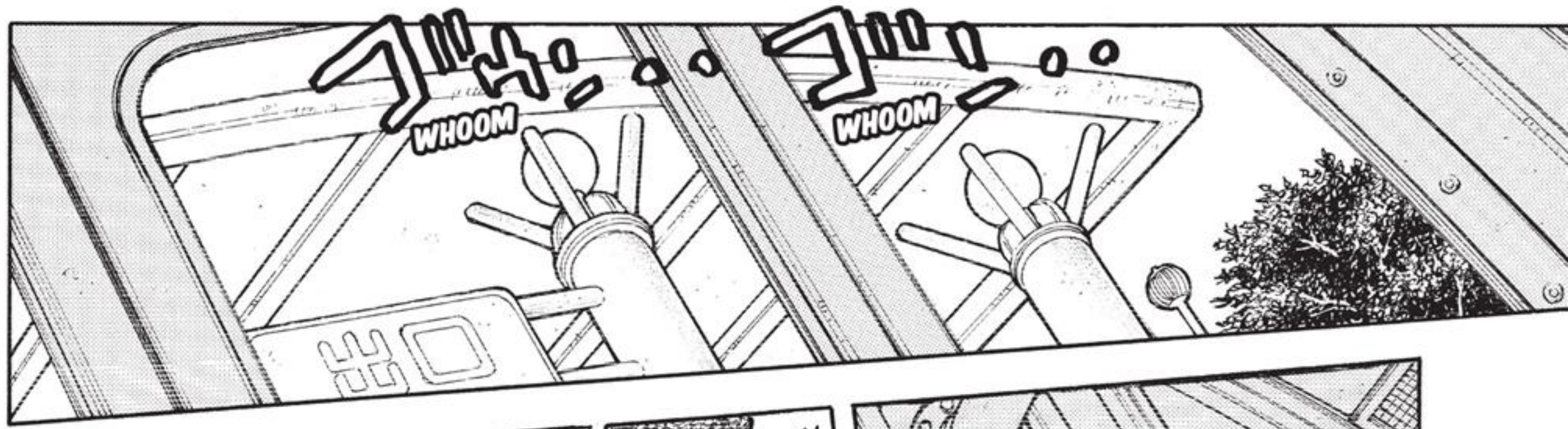


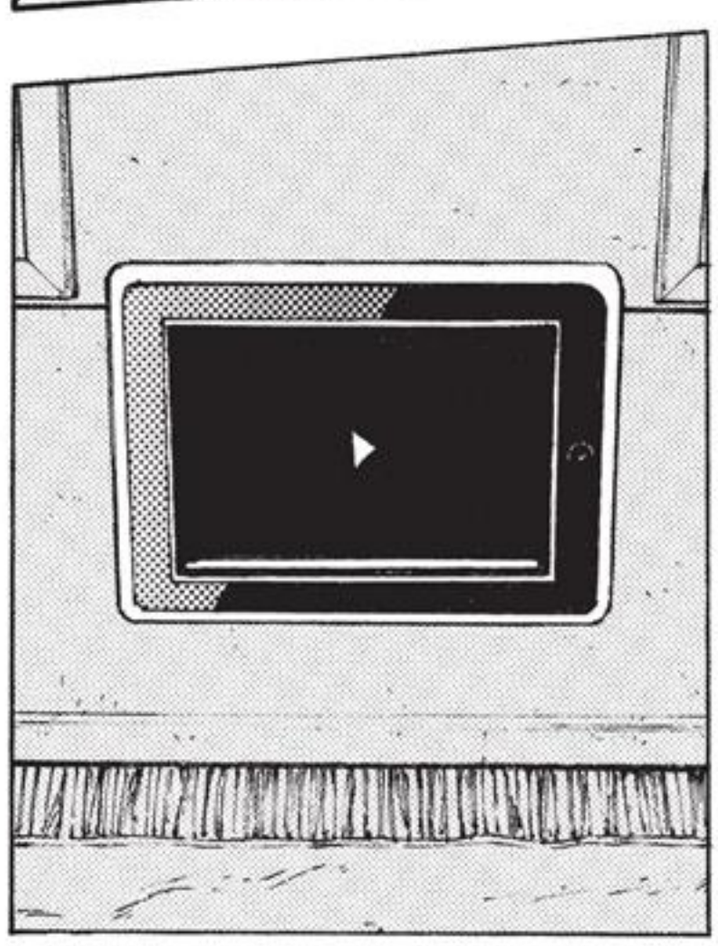
YOU HATE YOURSELF ?
DON'T ACT LIKE THAT MAKES YOU SPECIAL.
SO WHAT?

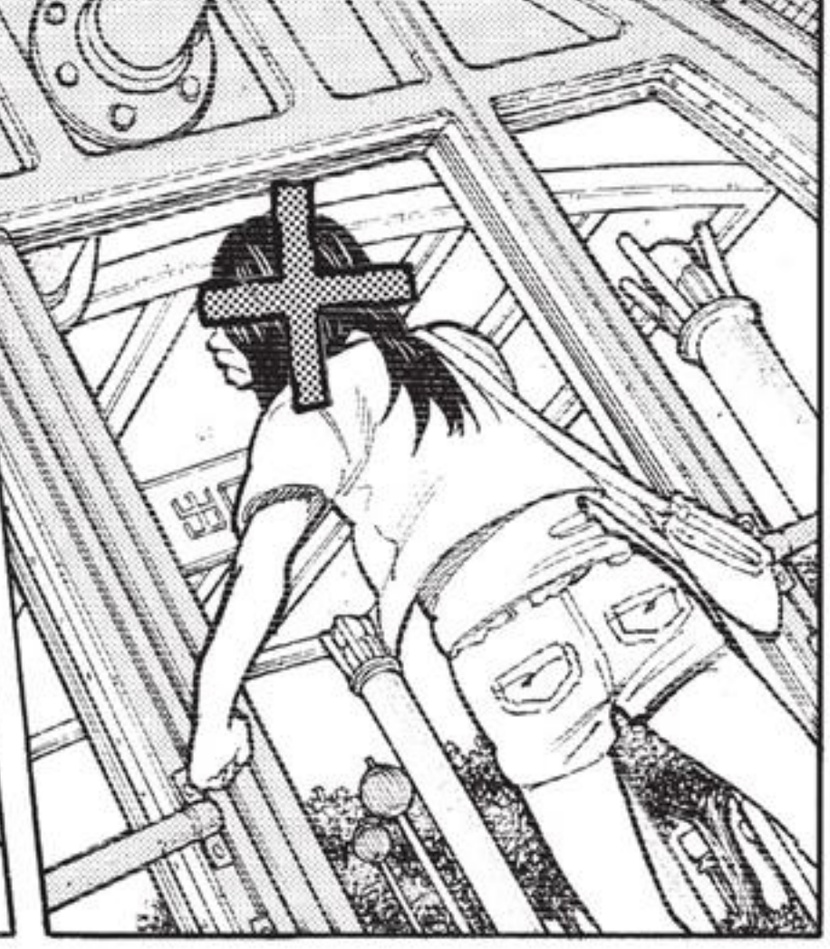

SO DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING MORE TO SAY FOR YOUR-SELF?
...BEING AS OPENLY HOSTILE AS I CAN...
I'M POURING MY HEART OUT OVER HERE...
LOOK...
THAT'S WHAT PISSES ME OFF!
YEAH, I ALREADY KNEW THAT. IT'S EASIER THAT WAY, HUH?
JUST ACCEPTING IT INSTEAD OF TRYING TO DEFEND YOURSELF.
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS, HASN'T IT?
ANYTIME SOMEONE SAYS SOMETHING HARSH TO YOU, YOU SAY, "I'M SORRY," AND RUN AWAY.
NOW I'M SURE OF IT.
...AND "SORRY."
...WHEN YOU SAY "THANK YOU"...
SHOKO, IT'S OBVIOUS THAT YOU'RE FORCING YOURSELF ...

JUST LIKE FIVE YEARS AGO...

...YOU HAVE NO INTENTION OF TALKING TO ME!!







I LEFT THE CAMERA RUNNING TO FIND OUT WHETHER I NEEDED TO KICK THIS CHICK'S BUTT...

...

WELL ... ...

HUH ? OH.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

NOPE, SAME AS ALWAYS.

UM...WHAT ABOUT SHOKO? DID SHE, LIKE, SAY ANYTHING AT HOME?

KLIK

NOT THAT I REALLY KNOW...

I-I DON'T THINK YOU NEED TO KICK HER BUTT...

SIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE TYPE WHO WON'T SPEAK UP, EVEN IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO HER.

I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY NAOKA WAS IRRITATED.

...THERE WAS ONE TIME SHE DID TALK TO ME A BIT...

BUT A FEW YEARS AGO...

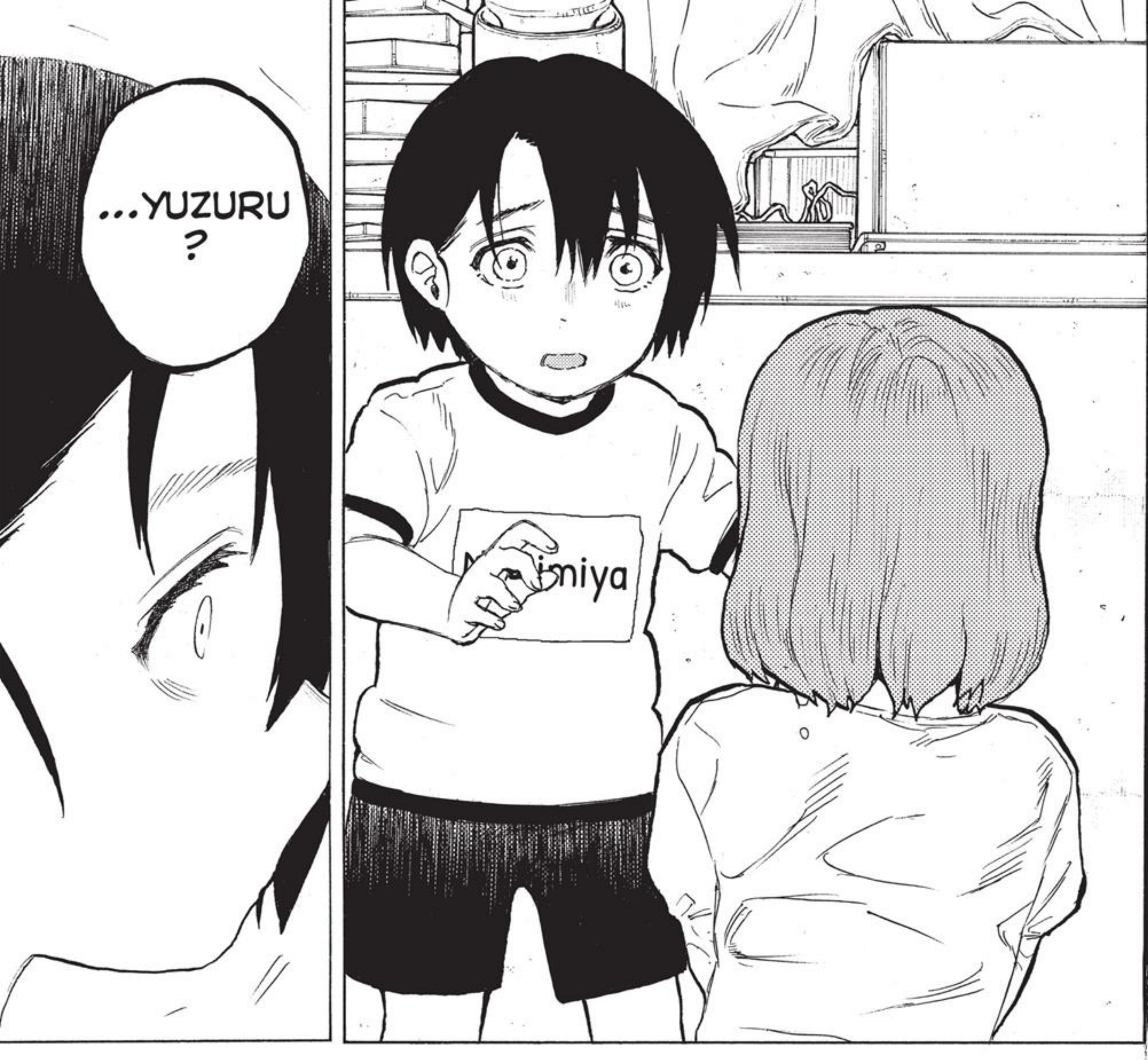
THAT DAY, I'M SURE SHE WAS AT HER BREAKING POINT.

YOU'RE SOAKING WET!

WHAT HAPPENED, SIS?

Nishimiya

...YUZURU ?


miya

WHAT'S WRONG ?
HOW FAR BACK WAS THIS? WHAT DID SHE SAY?
OH... YEAH...
HAHA ...

O-OH, WELL, THAT'S OKAY.
DOESN'T THAT MAKE YOU JUST LIKE HER?

...
SORRY ... I CAN'T TELL YOU.

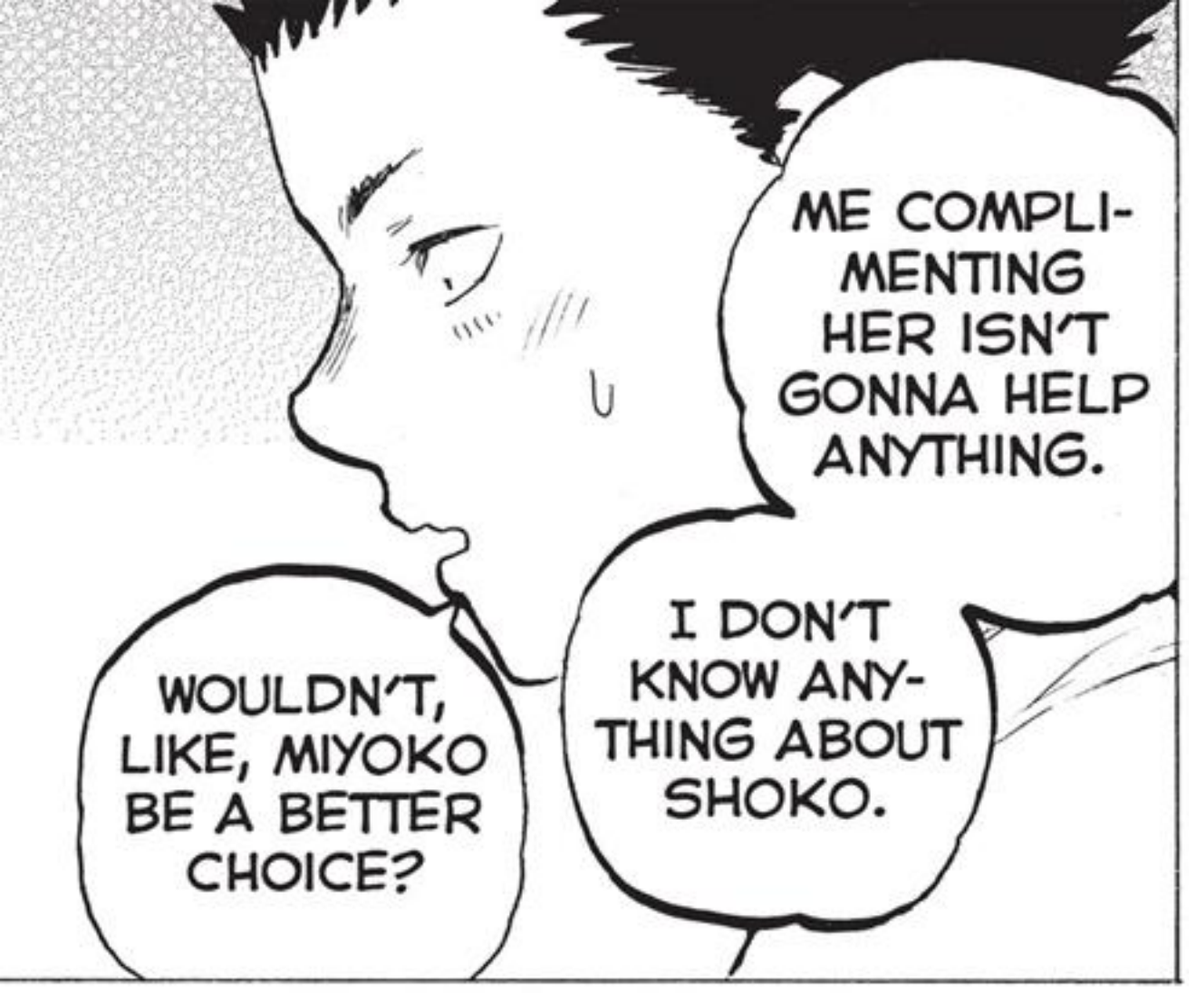
SHOKO SAID SHE HATES HERSELF...

...

I HATE MYSELF, TOO, SO I CAN'T SAY MUCH, BUT...

...I WANT HER TO...

...LIKE HER-SELF.


ME COMPLI-MENTING HER ISN'T GONNA HELP ANYTHING.
I DON'T KNOW ANY-THING ABOUT SHOKO.
WOULDN'T, LIKE, MIYOKO BE A BETTER CHOICE?

MY JOB?
MY JOB, HUH?
YEAH, YOURS...

NO, YOU DO IT! I DON'T CARE WHAT IT IS, JUST COMPLI-MENT HER ON SOMETHING!
I'M TELLIN' YA, IT'LL BE A PIECE OF CAKE!
...Y-YEAH!

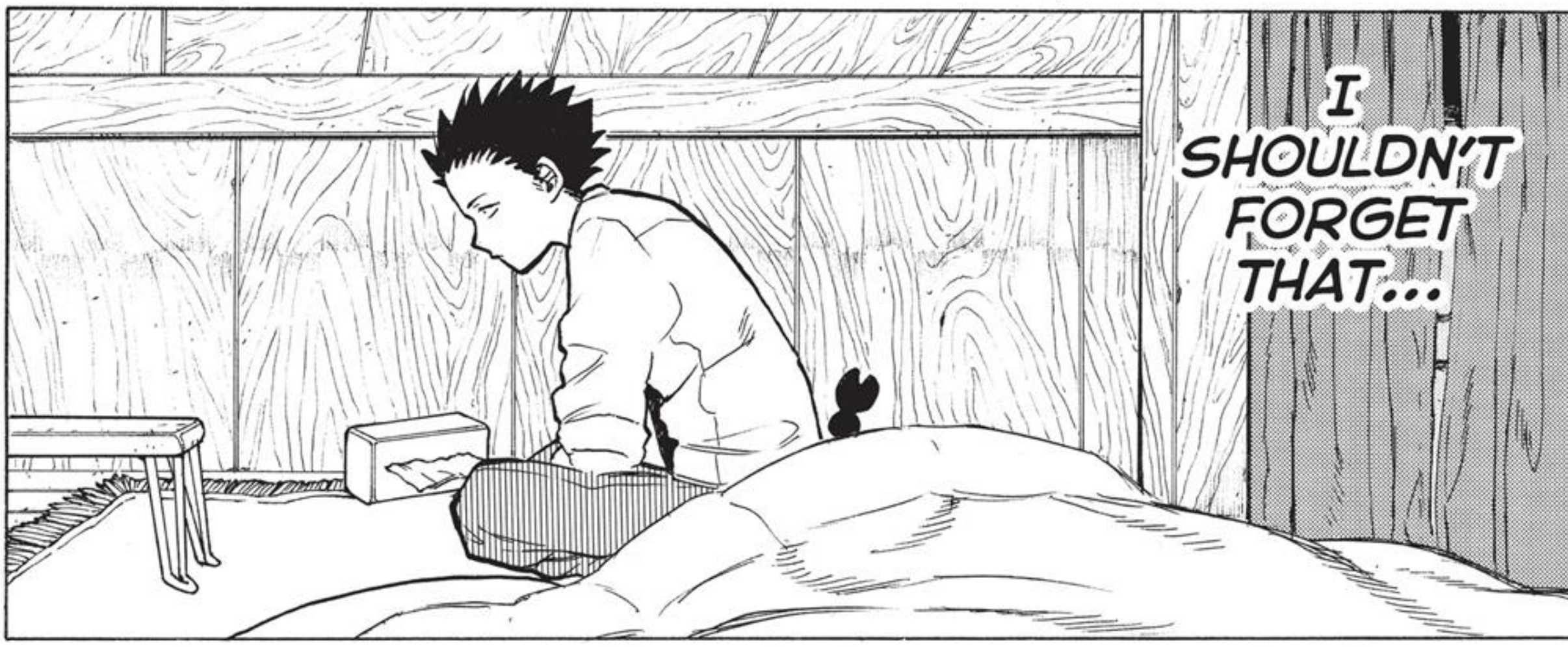
THEN I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW!
I'LL GIVE IT A SHOT...
HUH... OKAY...

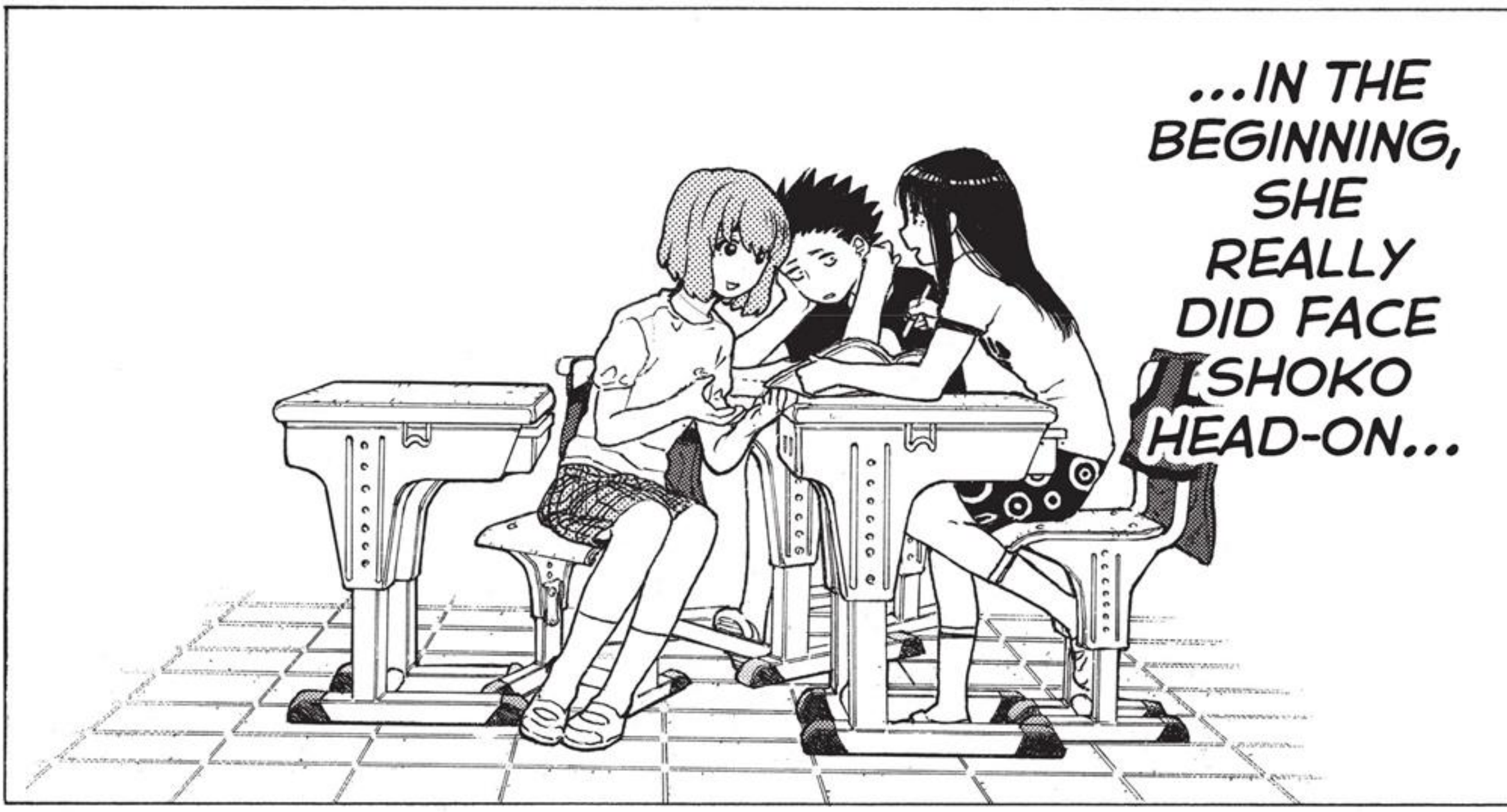
...
HUH
...

...

...I DIDN'T KNOW THAT'S HOW NAOKA FELT.

WELL, THAT SLAP MAY HAVE BEEN UNCALLED FOR, BUT...





MAYBE, IN A SENSE, SHE STILL DOES.

...MORE THAN I DID...

SHRRP

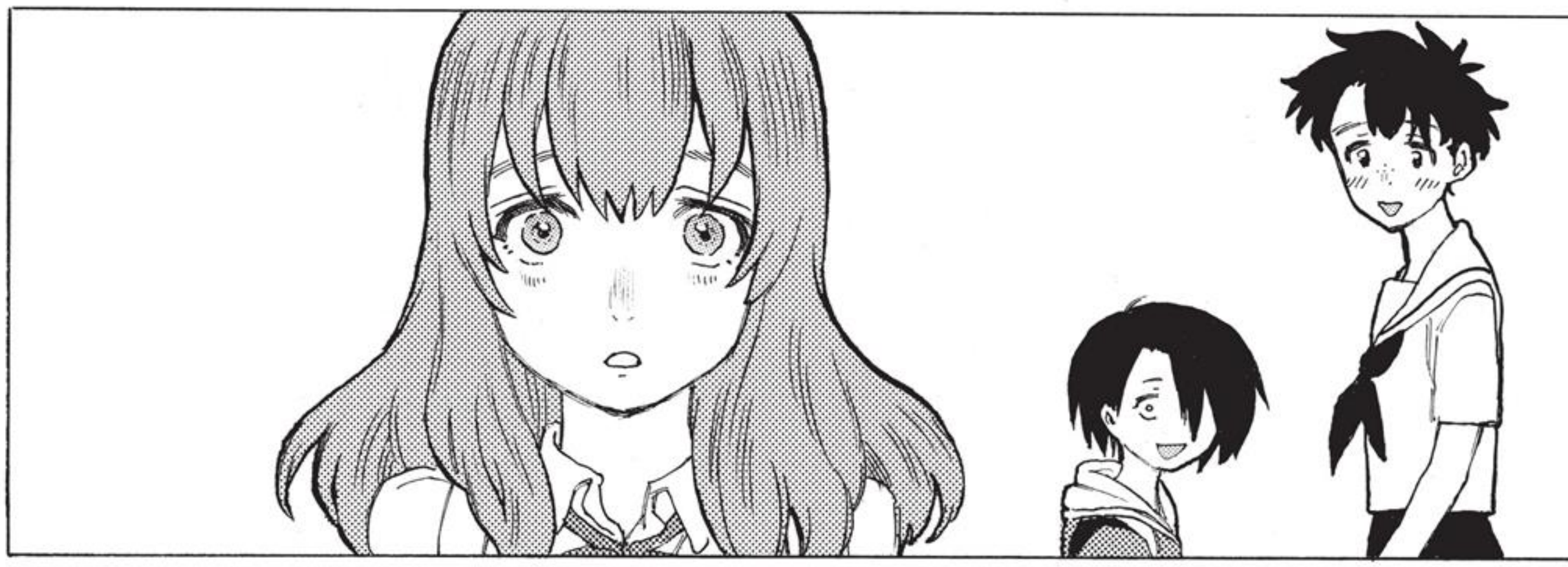
YO...
HEY THERE.

YO...
SHOKO ...
BOW

I NEED TO MEET SHOKO HEAD-ON, TOO...

BOY, YOU'RE LOOKING, LIKE...

...REALLY CUTE TODAY.



YOUR HAIR'S REALLY SILKY, ISN'T IT?

AND I LIKE THE LOOK OF THOSE SOCKS, TOO!

...?

PLUS, THIS IS SOME GREAT BREAD!

I SUPPOSE WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS...

...THAT YOU ARE A WONDERFUL HUMAN BEING!!

I KNOW LIFE CAN BE TOUGH SOMETIMES ...

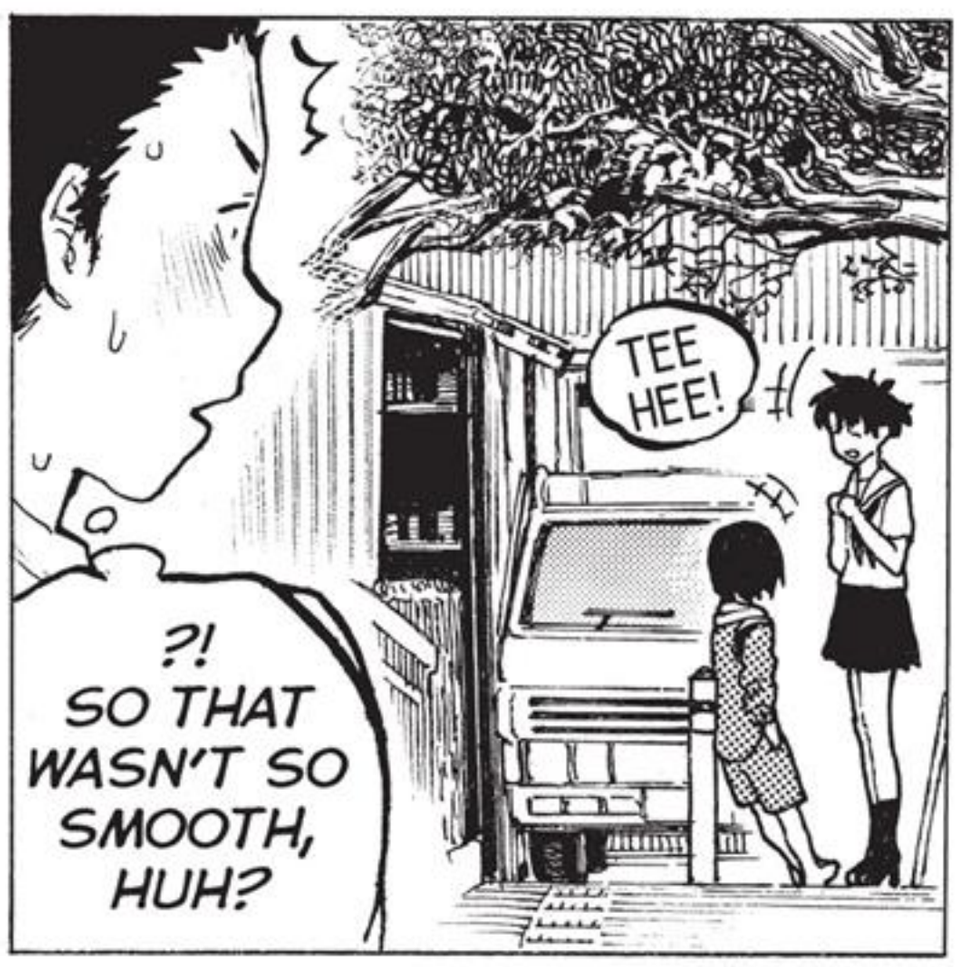
...?!

...BUT I'M HERE TO SUPPORT YOU, SO IF YOU EVER NEED TO TALK ABOUT ANYTHING, I'M YOUR MAN!!

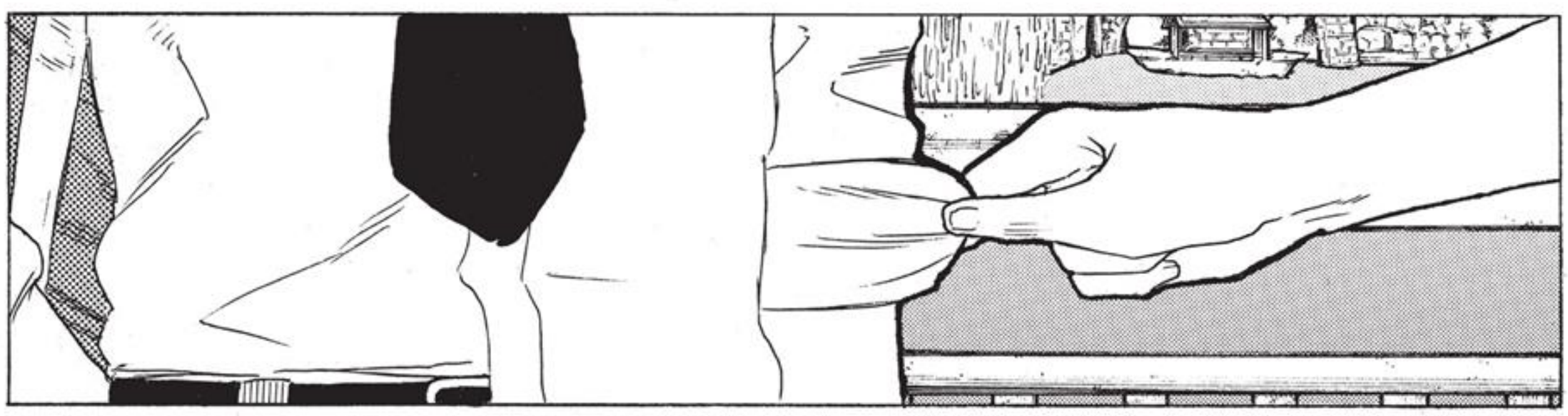
...!

...?!

...


TEE HEE!
?! SO THAT WASN'T SO SMOOTH, HUH?

I WONDER WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO SHOYA TODAY...
BOW!
JUST LEAVE HIM BE.



YOU WANT TO ASK ME SOMETHING? SURE, ASK AWAY!!

HMM ?

...

NO

E

U

NAOKA'S ADDRESS ?!

WELL, I KNOW WHERE HER HOUSE IS...

BUT... WHY?

A LETTER ...

A LETTER, HUH?

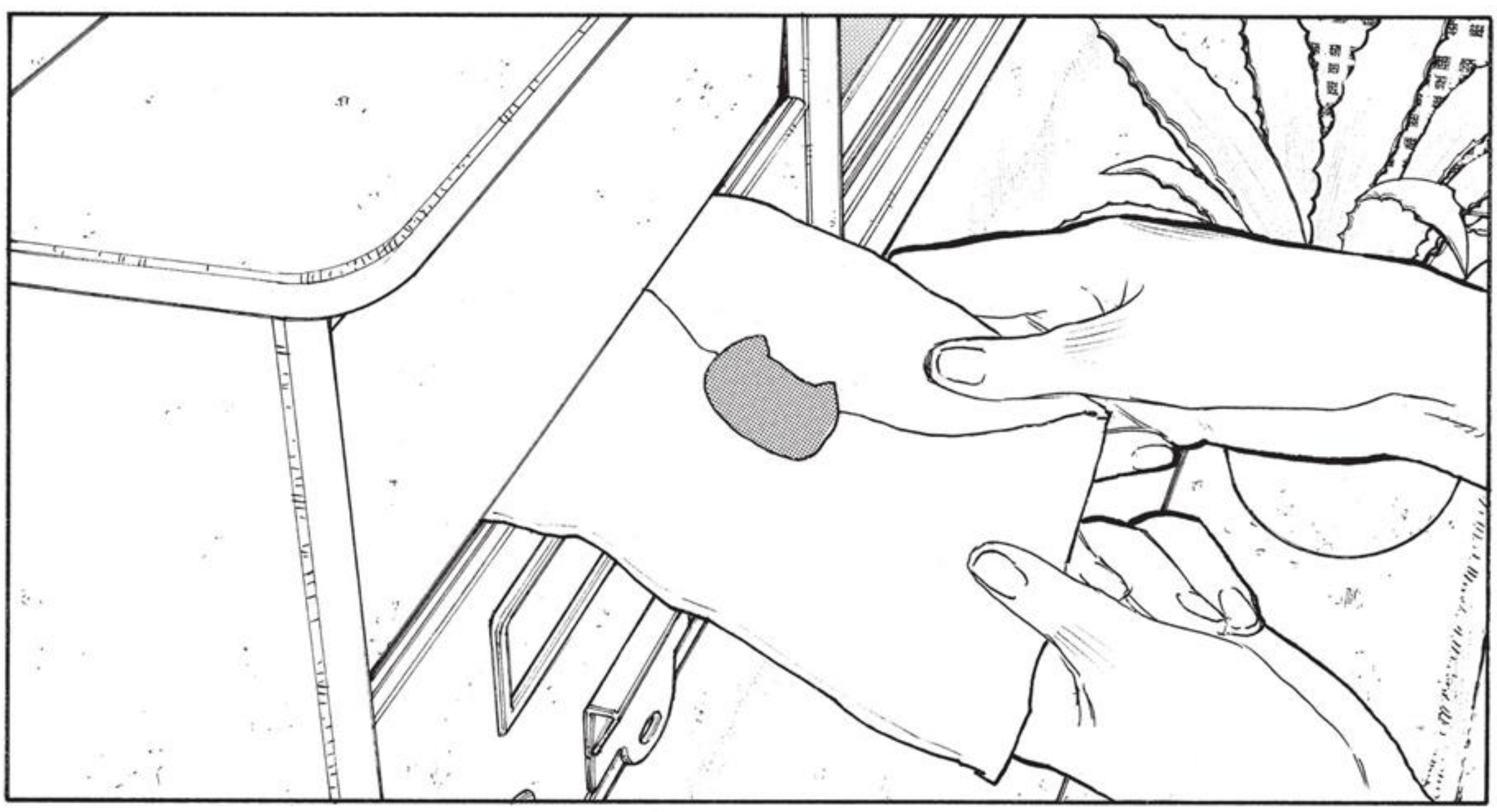
WELL ...

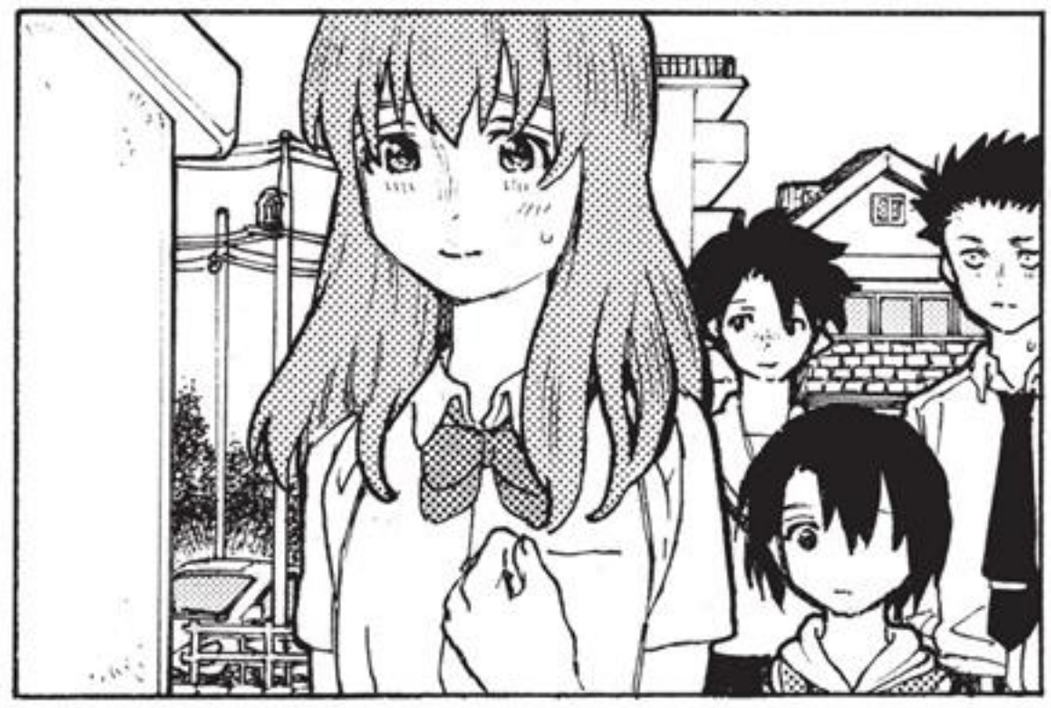
FWIP

To Naoka-san

WHY A LETTER?
WHAT DID YOU WRITE?
ARE YOU SURE THIS WON'T MAKE THINGS WORSE ?
WHACK...
IT'S A SECRET ?
SHOYA.
HMM ...
...
WELL, I DON'T KNOW...
I THINK NAO'S PROBABLY STILL AT SCHOOL,
BUT WE CAN AT LEAST DROP IT OFF.
LET'S GO DELIVER IT NOW!

I DECIDED TO TRUST MIYOKO'S SMILE.



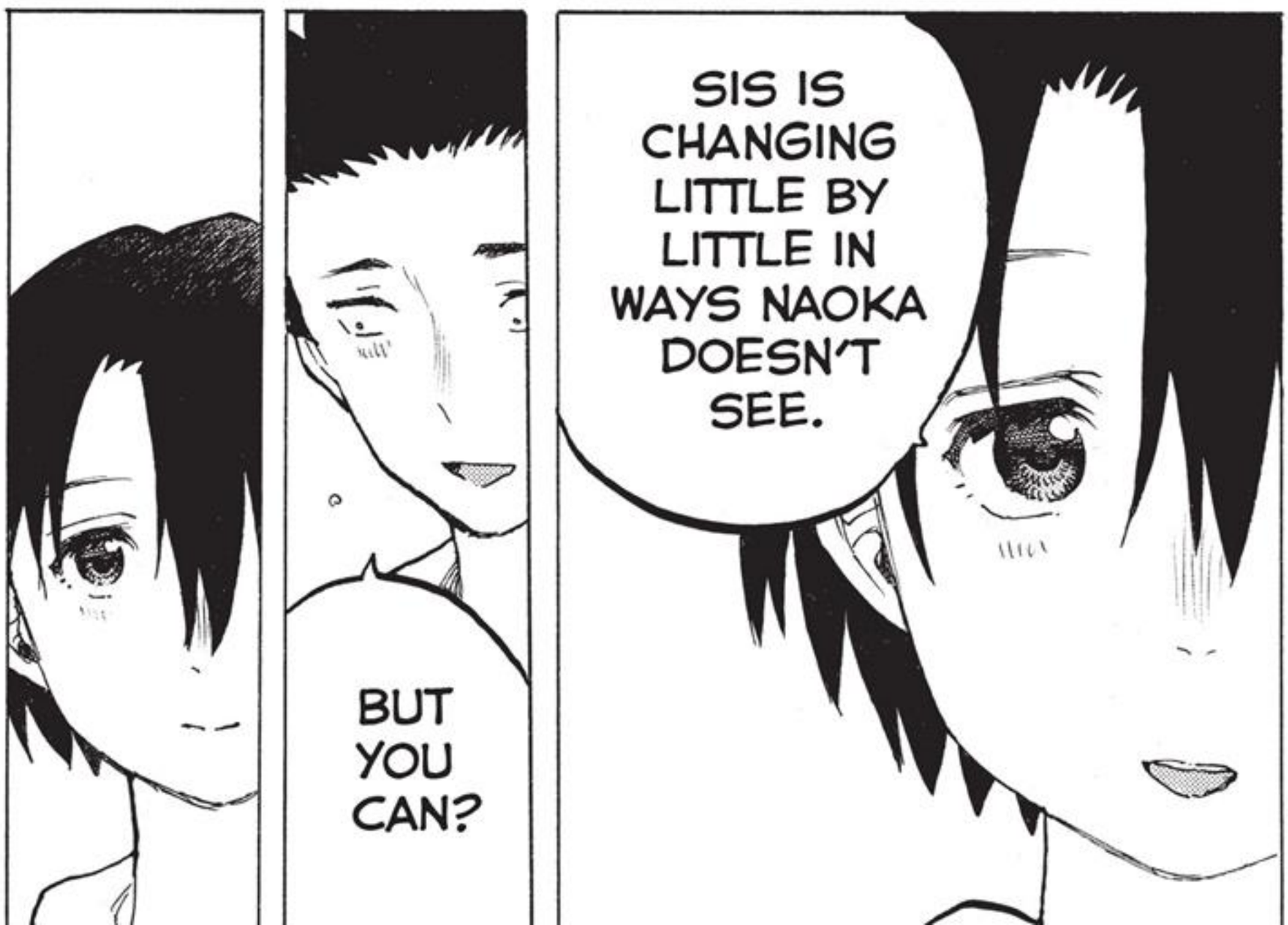


I BET SHOKO... RESPONDED TO WHAT NAOKA SAID BACK ON THE FERRIS WHEEL.

BUT...

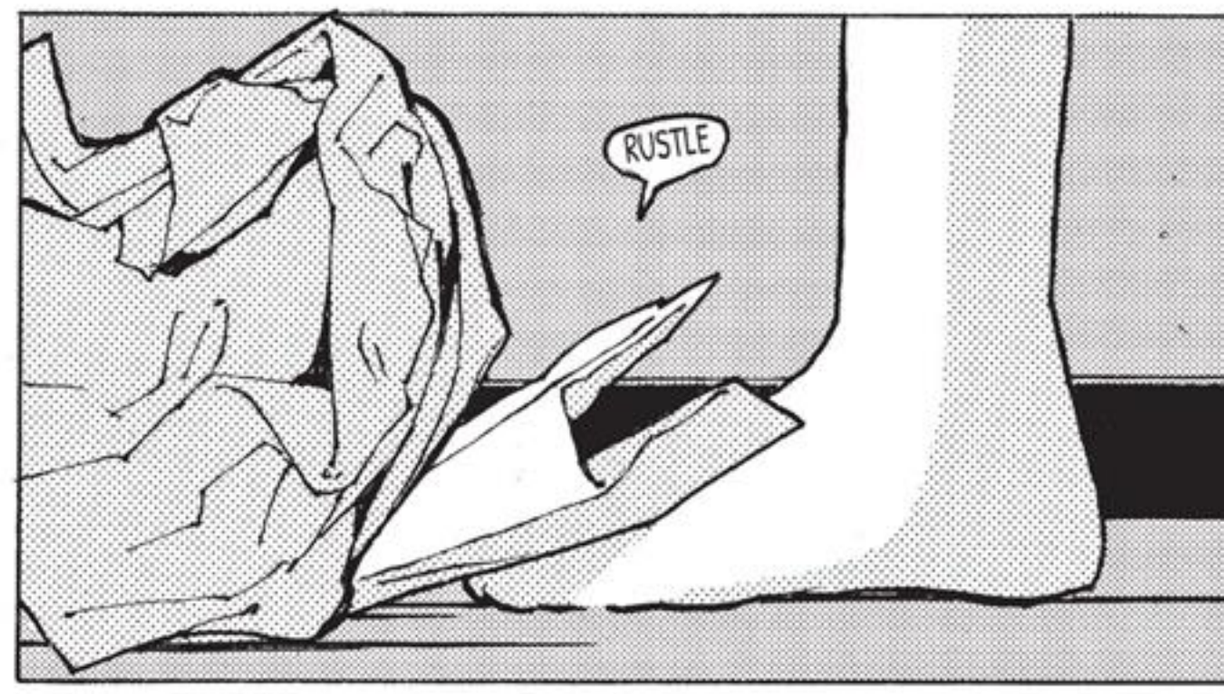
OR WHAT SHOKO WAS THINK-ING.

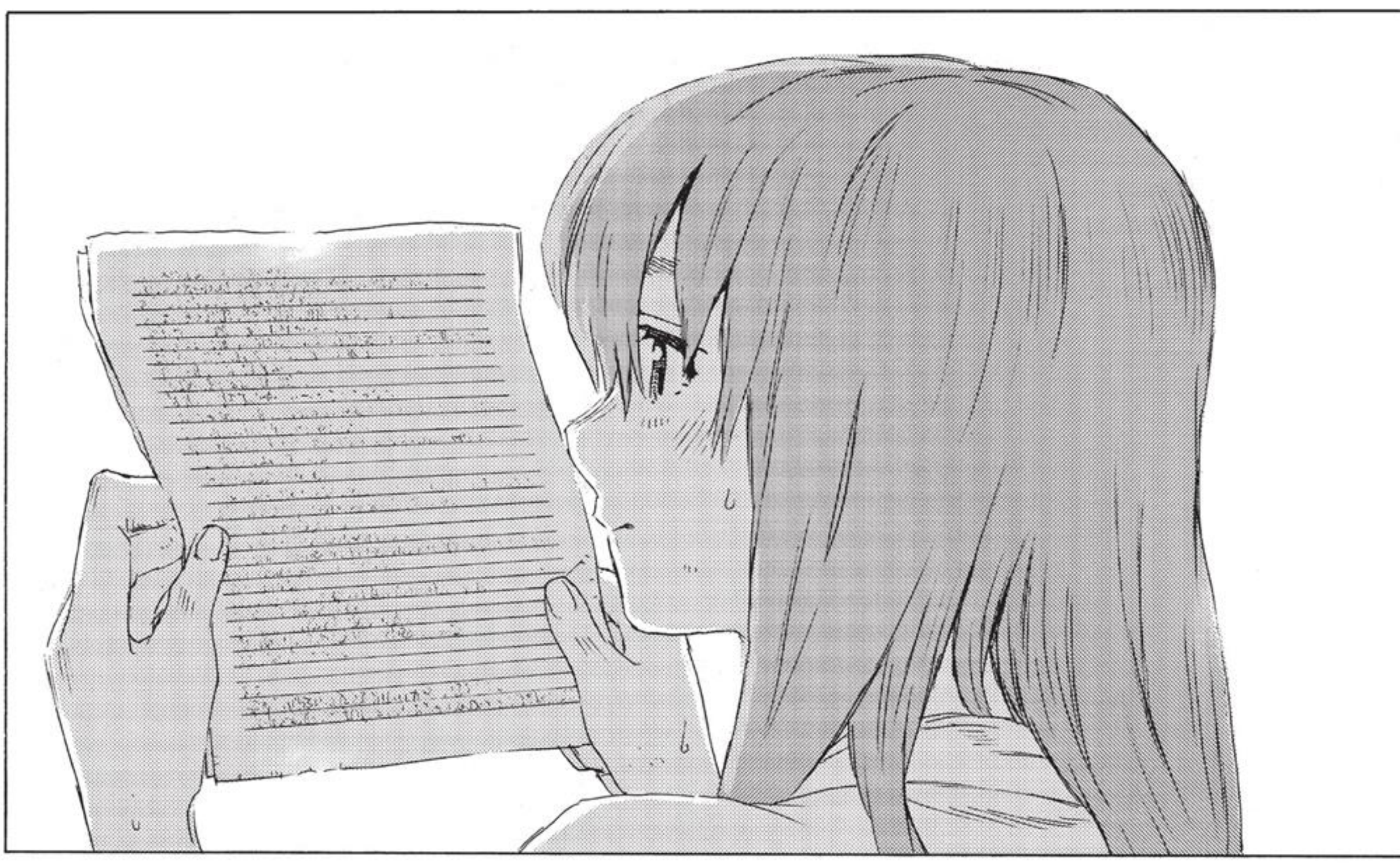
IN THE END, I NEVER FOUND OUT WHAT THAT LETTER SAID.

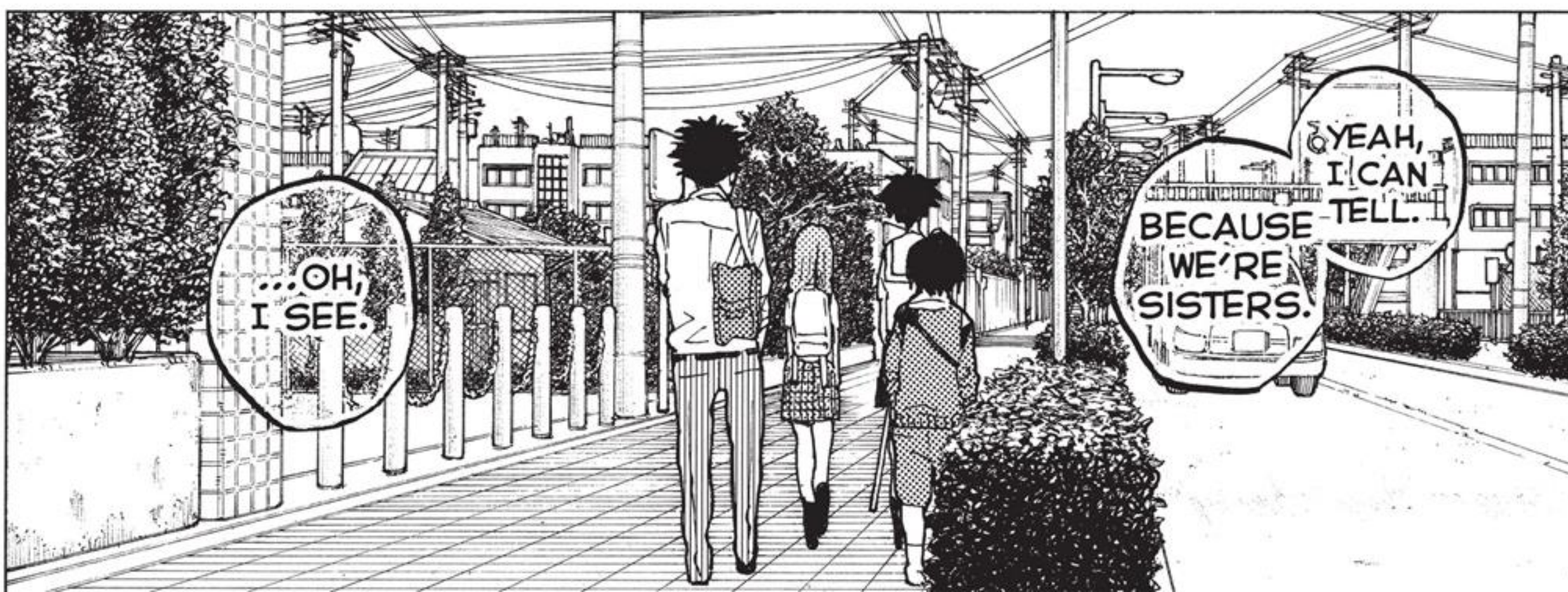


SKRITCH SKRITCH
SKRITCH SKRITCH

KRUNCH KRUNCH


RUSTLE




...OH, I SEE.
BECAUSE WE'RE SISTERS.
YEAH, I CAN TELL.